

TITLE OF SCRIPT: "MOLLY PITCHER"

TITLE OF SERIES: "THE NEW JERSEY CAVALCADE"

PLAYING TIME: THIRTY MINUTES

"MOLLY PITCHER"

MUSIC

THENE (UP & UNDER A HOLD)

ANNOUNCER

The New Jersey Cavalcade:

MUSIC

THENE (SWELL & FADE UNDER FOLLOWING:

ANNOUNCER

Station W.T.N.J. presents The New Jersey Cavalcade,
a series of dramatisations portraying people and
events significant in New Jersey's history, pre-
pared by the New Jersey Writers' Project of the
Works Projects Administration. The script for this
program was written by Hughes Allison, a Project
staff member, and is produced by the W.T.N.J. Radio
Theater Workshop.

MUSIC

NARRATOR

THEME "B" (UP & UNDER A PAIR UNDER FOLLOWING)

The American Revolution produced many heroic personalities whose deeds in behalf of freedom for the Colonies were nothing less than amazing. In some instances the passing of time has obscured many facts relating to these people. Often their deeds are recalled by symbols which have become part of our folklore. For example....one of the most famous points of historic interest in New Jersey is "Molly Pitcher's Well." The existence of the "well" belongs in the category of folklore. But Molly, herself, and her deeds are in no way mythical. Molly's contribution to the cause of liberty came to us in the Battle of Monmouth which was fought in June 28th in the year 1776.

(MUSIC IS OUT)

For two years, the British had bested the Revolutionary Army almost at every point, but the tide was just then turning in favor of the Americans. France was sending a strong fleet to the aid of the Colonists, and the British alarmed, had ordered General Clinton

NARRATOR to abandon Philadelphia and reinforce New York.
(cont'd) (FADE)
When General Washington learned of this....

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

SOUND (FADE IN AWAY) BUGLE--MARCHING TROOPS--CAVALRY MOVING
AT A WALK--ARTILLERY CAISSONS RUMBLING SLOWLY ALONG.
(UP & UNDER & SUSTAIN)

WASHINGTON (FADE IN) General Lee....

LEE Yes, your Excellency?

WASHINGTON The British have learned that a strong French fleet
is on its way to help our cause.

LEE I see.

WASHINGTON Our Intelligence reports that Sir Henry Clinton has
ordered his command to reinforce New York. We must
stop Clinton's maneuver.

LEE Hmm.

WASHINGTON The Marquis de Lafayette is already in the field with
his cavalry, resisting the movements of the enemy.

LEE But Lafayette's forces are small, your Excellency.

WASHINGTON Exactly. Now, I've ordered a thousand men under Gen-
eral Wayne and a corps under General Maxwell, includ-
ing General Morgan's light infantry, to attack the
enemy at the first opportunity. General Dickinson's
Jersey Militia is also in the field. And General Greene
with considerable artillery is on the way to the point
of action at this very moment.

LEE Will our attacking the British at this time, sir, be in the nature of a major maneuver?

WASHINGTON Ours is very definitely a major maneuver, General Lee.

LEE I see, sir.

WASHINGTON You sir, will proceed at once to the point of contact already established with the enemy. And, unless there should be powerful reasons to the contrary, you will attack the British immediately.

LEE (SALUTES) Your Excellency! One question, sir?

WASHINGTON Yes?

LEE Shall I assume full command on the field of action?

WASHINGTON Over Lafayette, Maxwell, Greene and the other Generals?

LEE I was thinking of seniority, your Excellency.

WASHINGTON Hmm. You are the senior of those gentlemen, aren't you?

LEE Yes, your Excellency.

WASHINGTON Very well, General Lee. You will be in full command.

LEE Very good, sir. (GOING AWAY) I shall start immediately for the point of action with five thousand men.

SOUND DOOR OPENS & CLOSSES. FOOTSTEPS. DOOR OPENS & CLOSSES.

BENCHMAN (AWAY) Well? What did he want....at five o'clock in the morning?

LEE Come here and look at this map.

BENCHMAN (COMING TO NINE) What's Washington planning now?

LEE (CHUCKLING) He's ordered me to stop Clinton from reaching New York.

HENCHMAN Well? Are you going to stop Clinton?

LEE Look here at the map. Clinton is right here....near Freehold by now.

HENCHMAN But....what of your agreement with the British?

LEE I'll keep it. Don't you have any fear as to that. And I'm in a very good position to do that at this very moment.

HENCHMAN (SURPRISED) You don't say!

LEE Mount your horse. Make all haste to get to Clinton. Inform him of Washington's plan. Tell Clinton I shall be in full command at Freehold.

HENCHMAN You?

LEE By right of seniority. All the other officers are beneath me in rank.

HENCHMAN I should say you are in a good position to....

LEE (BREAKING IN) Tell Clinton I shall make every effort to leave the way open for him to reach New York.

HENCHMAN (CHUCKLING SLYLY) You're a wicked devil, Lee.

LEE (CHUCKLING) Am I? Off with you now. And lose no (FADE) time getting to Clinton!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

NARRATOR (FADE IN) Lee, with his five thousand men, advanced to within one mile of Freehold. There, Lee issued orders

NARRATOR
(Cont'd)

that confused the American troops. It was a terrifically hot day. In fact, so hot that many men fell from the heat rather than from bullets. Consequently, once Lee had created confusion among the Americans, it was fairly easy to maintain the disorder and soon the Americans were rapidly falling back. Meanwhile, Washington, himself, was advancing toward the battle field. Near Tenment Church Washington encountered (PAUSE) the retreating Lee....

MUSIC

MUSICAL BRIDGE

SOUND

SCATTERED MUSKETRY--CAVALRY GOING AWAY FAST--SHOUTING
MEN IN FULL RETREAT. (UP BRIEFLY & UNDER) (SUSTAIN)

WASHINGTON

(CALLING ANGRILY) General Lee! General Lee!

LEE

(SLIGHTLY AWAY) Sir! Sir!

WASHINGTON

What is the meaning of all this confusion?

LEE

(COMING TO MIND) Confusion? Where?

WASHINGTON

(EXASPERATED) Pull yourself together man! Why this retreat?

LEE

I see no retreat, sir!

WASHINGTON

What! Are you mad, man? Why, the whole army is running as fast as it can!

LEE

The heat....the heat....and my orders weren't obeyed.

WASHINGTON

I told you....you were in command here!

LEE

My orders weren't obeyed, sir! I....I....

WASHINGTON

Never mind that! (CALLING) Bugler! Stop that retreat! Sound your instrument, Bugler!

SOUND(SLIGHTLY AWAY) BUGLE

LEE

My orders, sir! They weren't carried out and I....

WASHINGTON

That will be enough from you, General Lee! You will proceed to the rear at once! (SHOUTING ANGRILY)

Leave your men and go to the rear! I'll take command here! (ISSUING ORDERS) General Green, reform your line!

(FADE)

General Knox! Bring up more artillery! More artillery!

MUSICMUSICAL BRIDGE.NARRATOR

(FADE IN) Soon Washington had halted the retreat. And once order was restored, the Battle of Monmouth was on in earnest. The British Army occupied a position east of a brook, somewhere in the vicinity of Freshfield. The main body of Washington's Army was stationed on land considerably lower than that the enemy commanded. When the action had become general, two artillery-men operating a field piece in the American line noticed a strange creature (FADE) approaching them from the rear....

MUSICMUSICAL BRIDGESOUND

(FADE IN) BATTLE NOISES: CANNON--MUSKETRY--SHOOTING--CLASH OF SWORDS--CAVALRY ACTION.
(UP & UNDER) (SUSTAIN)

CAPTAIN (FADE IN SLIGHTLY AWAY) You two artillery-men keep that gun in action. (GOING AWAY) Every cannon we have counts heavily now!

1ST SOLDIER Aye, Captain! (ISSUE ORDER) Powder!

2ND SOLDIER Powder coming up! Devil of a day....to fight a war.

1ST SOLDIER Any day is bad for a war. Wadding!

2ND SOLDIER But this is the hottest....ever! Wadding ready!

1ST SOLDIER Ram it home!

2ND SOLDIER Ram-rod working! (SOUND OF RAM-ROD SCRAPING METAL)
If it was left to me....all the wars would be fought in the early spring....when it aint too hot and aint too cold.

1ST SOLDIER I'll have a word with General Washington about the weather. (ISSUES COMMAND) Roll in the iron! (LAUGHS)
Maybe him and the Red Coats will pick a day what suits you....to fight this war.

SOUND IRON BALL ROLLS INTO IRON CYLINDER

2ND SOLDIER Ball ready! Never mind taking my complaints to Washington. Already, he's got his troubles with that coward, General Lee, gone sneaking off to the rear.

1ST SOLDIER (SHORTS) General Lee! Wadding! And ram it home!

SOUND RAM-ROD SCRAPING METAL.

2ND SOLDIER One thing! The Red Coats get the heat as much as we do!

1ST SOLDIER Fuse's fixed!

2ND SOLDIER Give it the fire!

SCUD OF LIGHTED FUSE.

1ST SOLDIER Stand back, me lad....(GOING AWAY)....and let me
field-piece spit at the Red Coats!

2ND SOLDIER (GOING AWAY FAST) Golly! The rags fell out of me ears!

SCUD (CLOSE) FIRE CANNON.

1ST SOLDIER (AWAY) That ought to make 'em dance! (COMING TO MINE)
Look at 'em scatter on that hill top!

2ND SOLDIER (AWAY) What'd you say?

1ST SOLDIER (LAUGHING) Take your fingers out of your ears and open
your eyes!

2ND SOLDIER (COMING TO MINE) Golly! The Red Coats can run faster'n
General Lee. Gimme another rag for me ears.

1ST SOLDIER Washington will 'tend to Lee. And never mind your
blasted ears!

2ND SOLDIER But....

1ST SOLDIER You'll be lucky to have a pair when this day is done.

2ND SOLDIER But....Well! Look marching on us from the rear!

1ST SOLDIER Where?

2ND SOLDIER There. Golly! Did you ever see such a sight!

1ST SOLDIER Whatever it is....looks familiar to me.

2ND SOLDIER Did you ever!....wearing a feathered cocked hat,
an artillery-man's coat and....

1ST SOLDIER And petticoats! Glory be! It's me wife....Molly!

2ND SOLDIER Now aint this a pretty spot for a woman!

1ST SOLDIER (CALLING) Molly!

MOLLY (AWAY) Can it be my husband calling me?

1ST SOLDIER (CALLING) Molly!....what in the name of heaven!
.....do you want here?

MOLLY (AWAY) I've come to see if you need anything.
(COMING TO HER) And if it's water....I've
brought you a pitcher of it!

1ST SOLDIER Molly, this aint no place for a woman!

MOLLY It's a scorching day alright....likely as not the
devil himself ordered it!....so do you want the water?

1ST SOLDIER Molly!....this aint even a fit place for a soldier
....much rather a spot for a female to come daisy
picking! Now go home, will you!

MOLLY Oh draw in your tongue! Or stretch it out for the
water I've fetched you! If the cause for battle is
good enough for you, it's good enough for me. And I
won't go nowhere....'til I've done my bit here!

1ST SOLDIER Molly, I'll knock the ears off you....

MOLLY (BREAKING IN) Will you let me alone! Or will I have
to save the Red Coats the trouble of killing you?

1ST SOLDIER Lor' amighty!, you're a crazy female! But you've
sure got real stuffings in you! So, gimme your
blasted pitcher and let me drink my....

MOLLY (INTERRUPTING) Here! But I warn you!....save half
of it for your pardner!

SOUND MAN GULPING WATER (SUSTAIN UNTIL END OF FOLLOWING SPEECH)

2ND SOLDIER Golly, what a woman! WHAT a woman! More determined than the Red Coats. And come to think of it....I wonder what the almighty Sir Henry Clinton....away over yonder on that hill top....is planning now? (PAUSE)
Gimme that spy-glass so's I can take a look.

SOUND SUSTAIN BATTLE NOISES AS WE GO TO SCENE WITH:

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

CLINTON (PAGE IN) General Knyphausen....

KNYPHAUSEN (A LITTLE AWAY) Yes, Sir Henry?

CLINTON I say....that American battery of artillery off our right flank. Something ought to be done about it.
Say, what?

KNYPHAUSEN You know it's remarkable the way the Americans have recovered (COMING TO HERE) since Lee made his little gesture for us.

CLINTON Splendid recovery, sir! Splendid! But devilishly uncomfortable....especially that battery on our flank.

KNYPHAUSEN Hmm. Perhaps a bit of a visit from our cavalry might discourage their fire.

CLINTON (LONGS BREATH) This awful American heat! I say! I can hardly keep my mind on the fight!

KNYPHAUSEN My Seventeenth Light Dragoons could very well charge down this hill and across the plain there and....

CLINTON (BLOWS HRAH) Very good, sir! Have your Bugler sound the charge.

KNYHAUSEN (SALUTES) Sir Henry! Your permission to lead the charge?

CLINTON You've my permission, General Knyphausen. And God's speed sir!

KNYHAUSEN (GOING AWAY) Very good, sir! (CALLING AWAY) Bugler! (FADING)
Sound the charge!

SOUND (SLIGHTLY AWAY AND FADING) BUGLE.

SUSTAIN BATTLE NOISES AS WE GO TO SCENE WITH:

MUSIC BRITISH MARCH.

SOUND (FADE IN) MAN GULPING WATER. (UP BRIEFLY & CUT)

1ST SOLDIER Here, friend, Drink! Glory be, Hally!....but that was good! Here, take the pitcher, friend.

SOUND (FADE AWAY) BUGLE SOUNDING CAVALRY CHARGE.

2ND SOLDIER The Red Coats are up to something on that hill. I wonder....Thanks! I'll take the pitcher now.

SOUND MAN GULPING WATER. (SUSTAIN BRIEFLY)

1ST SOLDIER I never tasted such good water before, Molly.

MOLLY Brrrr! The other man liked it too.

1ST SOLDIER WHAT! Do you mean you've been....

MOLLY (BREAKING IN) Yes, to all who wanted to sample my pitcher! And what about it, huh?

2ND SOLDIER (AWAY CALLING) Where's Molly and her pitcher?

4TH SOLDIER (ARAY CALLING) Where's that woman with the water?
 Hey! Molly Pitcher!
 1ST SOLDIER Well! Listen at 'em! Calling you Molly Pitcher!
 SOUND CAVALRY CHARGE (SLOWLY PAKE IN UNDER FOLLOWING)
 MOLLY Well!! What about 'em calling me that?
 1ST SOLDIER That aint your....(ANGRILY) Are you ashamed of
 your husband's name?
 MOLLY Are you jealous because I....
 2ND SOLDIER (INTERUPTING AND YELLING) Look out! The Dragoons
 are charging us!
 MOLLY What!
 1ST SOLDIER The Dragoons! The Dragoons!
 MOLLY Hand me a musket! I'll show the blasted devils a
 thing or two!
 1ST SOLDIER (SHOUTING) Stand ye ground, lads!
 2ND SOLDIER Drive 'em back! Drive 'em back!
 SOUND MUSKETS FIRING CLOSE. (SUSTAIN BRIEFLY)
 1ST SOLDIER That's it! Stop 'em in their tracks!
 SOUND SCREE SCOUNDING CAVALRY RECALL (ARAY)
 MOLLY (GLESFULLY) There's one'll never ride again!
 2ND SOLDIER Let 'em have it! Ah! They're wheeling around!
 MOLLY They'd better!
 1ST SOLDIER Ah, Molly! What a fighter you make! What a....
 (WOUNDED.....HE MOANS)
 MOLLY Hand me another musket! A loaded one!

1ST SOLDIER (MOANS) Molly....

MOLLY (FIRES MURKIN) There! And a perfect aim too!

SOUND CAVALRY GOING AWAY FAST (START FADING JUST AFTER
MURKIN RECALL ABOVE.)

2ND SOLDIER (SHOUTING GLEEFULLY) That does it! They're on
the run! They're on the.... (SHOT, HE CHIES OUT,
SIGNS, THEN DIES AND A LOUD GUNBOLT)

MOLLY (GLEEFULLY) Look at 'em run! Look at 'em run!

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Molly! Molly!

MOLLY Huh? What?

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Molly, I'm....

MOLLY Ler' mighty! Are you hurt?

1ST SOLDIER Ah, Molly! The ball went right through me.

MOLLY Is it real bad?

1ST SOLDIER (VERY WEAK) It's....pretty bad, Molly. (MOANS)

MOLLY (PAUSES TO EXAMINE HIM; THEN SHOUTS ANGERILY) You
dirty Red Coated devils! So you'd shoot my lawfully
wedded husband, would you! And....slay his friend
like the mad dogs you are! Well!....you've still
got me to deal with! And it aint in the books of
heaven....that I'm to die this day. So come back
and fight!

1ST SOLDIER Molly.... (MOANS)

CAPTAIN (COMING TO HER) Cannonier, are you fit for further
duty?

1ST SOLDIER (VERY WEAK) Captain, I'm afraid I'm....

CAPTAIN (INTERRUPTING) Never mind, man. I can see you're too badly hurt to carry on.

1ST SOLDIER Yes, sir! (WEAK) I am that, Captain

CAPTAIN (SIGHS) What a day this has been. (SIGHS) Well, there's no other to take your place, cannonier.

1ST SOLDIER (VERY WEAK) The luck of it sir!

CAPTAIN Nothing to do....but order your gun dragged to the rear. (GOING AWAY A LITTLE) I'll see to it immediately.

MOLLY What! You'll do nothing of the sort!

CAPTAIN (COMING TO HIMSELF) Sir! I mean.....or madam!

MOLLY Take my husband's cannon out of action! When I'm here to man it!

CAPTAIN Madam, I....

MOLLY (DEFENDING HIMSELF TO SHUT HIM UP) I said I'd man this field piece!

CAPTAIN Who're you to give me....

MOLLY Who're you fighting for....the Red Coats or the Americans? Now, Off with you! Off with you and let me and this gun alone!

CAPTAIN You dare talk to an officer like....

1ST SOLDIER (INTERRUPTING WEAKLY) Begging your pardon, sir! But it seems I married a shrew with the heart of a lion and the strength of a brace of mules....

CAPTAIN WHEAT

1ST SOLDIER and already she's ruined Old Ned with both
the heat and the Red Coats. So will you....

CAPTAIN (INTERRUPTING) Is she the woman who's been
bringing water to the men?

MOLLY I am! But now I've a better job to do!

1ST SOLDIER Let her have her way with my field-piece, sir.
Please?

CAPTAIN Well, I don't....

1ST SOLDIER I'll lay right here, sir....and direct her actions...

CAPTAIN Well I....(CHUCKLES) Very well, madam. You've my
permission to man your husband's gun.

MOLLY AM!

CAPTAIN And give the Red Coats the very....

MOLLY (SHOOUTING) What I'll give 'em....will be unfit to
mention....even in the worst company! Now come on,
(FADE)
you dirty Red Coats! Come on and fight!

SOUND SHILL BATTLE NOISES. (FADE)

MUSIC MUSICAL MUSIC

SOUND (FADE IN AWAY) CAMP NOISES: BUGLE--INDISTINCT NOISES
OF MANY MEN TALKING QUIETLY--INTERMITTENT ROARS OF THE
WOUNDED. (UP BRIEFLY & UNDER & SUSTAIN)

CAPTAIN (COMING TO MIND) Good morning, Commander.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Good morning, Captain.

CAPTAIN How do you feel?

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) The ball from that Red Coat's musket....did me no good, sir.

CAPTAIN Hmm. Yes....I see it didn't.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) But it's pleasant....laying here on the grass'neath this tree.

CAPTAIN Your wife will return presently....to take care of your wound. A brave woman....that one!

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Ayoi

CAPTAIN I'd no idea she'd do the job she did do!

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK BUT PROUD) Kept my cannon in action...the whole of yesterday afternoon! (CHUCKLING WEAKLY) I've a feeling, though, she's a bit peeved at the Red Coats for taking to their heels....under cover of last night's darkness.

CAPTAIN (CHUCKLING) She seemed more peeved at leaving you awhile ago....to go to General Greene.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK AND ANXIOUS) Begging your pardon, sir....but I hope she's not offended the General by taking charge of no gun!

CAPTAIN On the contrary, man! (FADE) On the contrary!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

SOUND (FADE IN A LITTLE AWAY) THE ROLL OF DRUMS. (UP BRIEFLY & HOLD FOR SPEECH OF "ADJUTANT" & CUT)

ANNOUNCER

(PAUSE IN CLOSE & SOFT IN AN ASIDE) With Molly standing here beside you....I think the men already have an idea as to what you're going to say, General Greene.

SOUND

DURING THE FOLLOWING SPEECH DENOTES THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE BODY OF MEN STANDING AT ATTENTION NEARBY WITH A COUGH NOW AND THEN AND THE INTERMITTENT RATTLE OF A SABRE OR MUSKET COMING FROM A SERIES OF CHANGING POSITIONS BEFORE HER.

GREENE

(A LITTLE AWAY ADDRESSING LARGE BODY OF MEN) Gentlemen! We are assembled here to pay homage to a fellow soldier to whom we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude. This comrade differs from the rest of us in two respects. The first....she wears petticoats, a distinction which in no way detracts from the other but rather adds charm and grace to its singular quality. The second....she has a greater capacity for fortitude than even the most distinguished among us. We witnessed her courage first, when she daringly appeared on the field of action.... bearing water which the thirsty among us sorely needed because of the heat of the day. And again we witnessed her extraordinary bravery when her husband....a comrade....fell wounded and she assumed his very necessary office. (TURNING TO MOLLY) Madam! Allow me to speak for the entire American Army. We have no words with which to thank you. We can only salute you!

SOUND ROLL OF DRUMS. (UP BRIEFLY & FADE)

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

SOUND (FADE IN AWAY) CAMP NOISES: BATTLE--INDISTINCT MURMUR OF MANY MEN TALKING QUIETLY--INTERMITTENT ROARS OF THE WOUNDED. (UP BRIEFLY & UNDER A SUSTAIN)

CAPTAIN (FADE IN) On the contrary, ma'am! On the contrary. General Greene summoned your wife to present her to the Army.

1ST SOLDIER Sir?

CAPTAIN Do you think, ma'am, that soldiers would receive the extraordinary services your wife so gallantly volunteered....without expressing their gratitude?

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) That must have been the reason for the drums we heard.

CAPTAIN Undoubtedly! (TURNING AWAY A LITTLE) Ah! Here comes your wife now.

1ST SOLDIER Molly....

MOLLY (COMING TO HER) How do you feel....now?

CAPTAIN (SALUTING) Madam! (GOING AWAY) I'll be going now that your wife has returned. Good day, Cammerler.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Good day, Captain.

MOLLY Good day, Captain.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) What happened, Molly?

MOLLY I've brought you a clean bandage....

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) What did the General say to you?

NOLLY Can you turn on your side a little?

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Nolly....

NOLLY (BREAKING IN QUICKLY) That's it. Now....I can get to your wound.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK & EXASPERATED) Nolly! What happened! Tell me!

NOLLY You'd do better....not to try to talk....

1ST SOLDIER Aw, Nolly!

NOLLY Well....if you must know....the General insisted upon paying me honor.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK & PROUD) Nolly!

NOLLY But he shouldn't have done it! And me in this old dress, too! I ain't changed since the battle yesterday....

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) The men don't care about your clothes, Nolly.

NOLLY But I do! Besides....there weren't no reason to pay me honor. I had good cause to fight. If taking up arms for the sake of freedom ain't a good cause.... what is? And....and....well, jst being permitted to do some little thing for that....is honor enough for anybody.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK & PROUD) Glory be, Nolly! What an all-fired woman you are!

NOLLY There now! You've got a clean bandage on you.

1ST SOLDIER (WEAK) Golly! But I'm proud of you.

ADJUTANT (COMING TO NINE) Madam. General Greene sends you his compliments. And will you please follow me.

MOLLY Where?

ADJUTANT I'm to take you to General Greene, Madam.

MOLLY But....I just came from General Greene!

ADJUTANT Quite so, Madam.

MOLLY I can't leave my husband.

ADJUTANT Your husband seems to be fairly comfortable for the time being.

1ST SOLDIER I'll be alright, Molly. This is General Greene's Adjutant. You'd better go with him.

MOLLY For goodness sake! Don't I even get a chance to change my dress?

ADJUTANT I'm afraid.....there won't be time for that now, Madam.

MOLLY But....Well, what's all this haste about.

ADJUTANT General Washington has ordered you to be brought to his Headquarters.

MOLLY But I can't go there....looking like this!

ADJUTANT Madam, General Greene is waiting to escort you to General Washington's Headquarters. Will you follow me please?

MOLLY He wants to see me!....General Washington?

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

SCENE (AWAY) DOOR OPENS & CLOSES.

WASHINGTON (FAIRY IN AT MINE) General Lee! Your complot at Freehold, sir, seemed prompted by a most evil design!

LEE I have nothing to say about my....

WASHINGTON (INTERRUPTING) Oh, come in, General Greene.

GREENE (AWAY) Thank you, your Excellency.

WASHINGTON I've this matter of....of cowardice and treason to settle with General Lee and then....

LEE (BREAKING IN ANGRILY) Sir!

GREENE (COMING TO HIMSELF) I've the lady outside, sir, you ordered brought to headquarters.

WASHINGTON Very good, General Greene. (ANGRILY TO LEE) I repeat, General Lee, you are a coward and a traitor! And after I've finished this interview with you....it will please me very much to see a real soldier....even though one in petticoats!

LEE Your Excellency! What evidence have you that....

WASHINGTON (INTERRUPTING) Is it not a fact, sir, that not long ago you were held a prisoner by the British?

LEE Yes, your Excellency. But....I....I....

WASHINGTON Is it not a fact that you bargained with the British before your return to the American Army?

LEE Bargained! If

WASHINGTON I suggest that you did!

LEE Why this is....Your Excellency!

WASHINGTON On yesterday....were you in communication with the enemy before you went on the field, sir!

LEE General Washington....I've tried to explain about

LEE
(CONT'D) yesterday already. You gave me command of all troops then in action. But....when I reached the field and issued orders....

WASHINGTON (INTERRUPTING) Orders to retreat! A cowardly way of taking command of....

LEE (BREAKING IN) I didn't order a retreat until my initial orders were disobeyed by my inferior officers. Not until then did I order a retreat, sir! Not until then, your Excellency!

WASHINGTON (CALMLY & QUIETLY) I have information to the contrary, sir, I've received information that you....

LEE (BREAKING IN EXCITEDLY) There isn't a word of it....

WASHINGTON (INTERRUPTING AND SHOUTING ANGRILY) Further lies will hardly strengthen your position, General Lee!

LEE But sir....

WASHINGTON (SHOUTING) You're under arrest, General Lee! And in due time....you will be given an opportunity to explain your conduct of yesterday to a court martial!

LEE (COMPLETELY DEFLATED) Your Excellency....

WASHINGTON Now retire to your quarters!

LEE (GOING AWAY) I am indeed sorry, your Excellency....

WASHINGTON And on your way out....ask the soldier in petticoats to come in.

SCENE (AWAY) DOOR OPENS.

LEE (AWAY) General Washington wishes to see you, Madam.

WASHINGTON (KINDLY) Come in, Madam.

SCUDD (AWAY) DOOR CLOSES.

MOLLY (AWAY) Thank you, sir, General Washington....

WASHINGTON Madam! I count it a privilege....to bid you welcome.

MOLLY (COMING TO MIKE) Begging your pardon, your Excellency, but please excuse my....my appearance. You see....I aint had time to change my dress since the battle and....and it's all stained with powder and....and (GIGGLES JUST A TINY BIT) and sort of torn here and there and....and...

WASHINGTON Madam, it isn't the costume that makes the soldier, but the stout heart beneath. And in this instance your tattered dress honors the cause of freedom. So permit me, Madam, to salute you....not only as a soldier, but as a symbol of the spirit which is carrying (FADE) our banner to the goal of ultimate liberty.

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

NARRATOR (FADE IN) General Washington....after thanking Molly for her services in the Battle of Monmouth....gave her the rank of lieutenant. But the men in the ranks insisted upon calling her "Captain Molly." When her husband recovered from his wound, Molly stayed with the American Army until the end of the Revolutionary War. In later years, there was considerable confu-

NARRATOR
(CONT'D)

sion about Molly's name....some calling her "Molly Pitcher." Recently, however, it was discovered that her husband's name was John Casper Hays. So the real name of this truly brave woman was not Molly Pitcher, but Molly Hays. She was not a myth. Her deeds are not folklore. Molly was real. And her amazing performance on the battlefield a most valuable contribution to the cause of American Independence.

MUSIC

THEME "E" (UP & FADE:

ANNOUNCER

(CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT.....

MUSIC

THEME (UP & FADE: